



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/817,556	04/02/2004	Duane R. Pillar	061300-0617	4861
26371	7590	11/20/2007	EXAMINER	
FOLEY & LARDNER LLP 777 EAST WISCONSIN AVENUE MILWAUKEE, WI 53202-5306			BROADHEAD, BRIAN J	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3664				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
11/20/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/817,556	PILLAR ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Brian J. Broadhead	3661	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2007.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-54 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 18,19,21-24 and 45-47 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-6,10-15,20,25-28,38,44,48,49 and 53 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) 7-9,17,29-37,39-43,50-52 and 54 is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 02 April 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1-5-07, 4-13-07, 11-13-06. 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of species 3 in the reply filed on 7-20-07 is acknowledged.

Double Patenting

2. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

3. Claims 20, 34, 38, and 44 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 5, and 6 of U.S. Patent No. 7107129. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the minor differences in wording only vary the scope of the invention in a minor way and these differences would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Art Unit: 3661

4. Claims 20, 25, 27, 38, 43, 44, 48, 49, 50, 51, and 52 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10, 14-19, 21, 25-27, 29, and 31-38 of U.S. Patent No. 7274976. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the minor differences in wording only vary the scope of the invention in a minor way and these differences would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

5. Claims 20, 30, 31, 32, 33, 38, 48, 49, 50, 51, and 52 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-12, 20-22, 25, 26, and 30 of U.S. Patent No. 7184862. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the minor differences in wording only vary the scope of the invention in a minor way and these differences would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-6, 10-15, 20, 25-27, 38, 44, 48, 49, and 53 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, 3, 5-8, 10, 14-20, 22-29, and 32 of U.S. Patent No. 7162332. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the minor differences in wording only vary the scope of the invention in a minor way and these differences would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

7. Claims 20 and 28 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 4, 6, and 11 of U.S. Patent No. 7127331. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the minor differences in wording only vary the scope of the invention in a minor way and these differences would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

8. Claims 20, 38, and 44 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 13 and 15 of U.S. Patent No. 6922615. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the minor differences in wording only vary the scope of the invention in a minor way and these differences would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

9. Claims 1, 13, and 14 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 21-25 of copending Application No. 11/729694. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the minor differences in wording only vary the scope of the invention in a minor way and these differences would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Objections

10. Claims 51 and 52 are objected to because of the following informalities: The claims are duplicates. Appropriate correction is required.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian J. Broadhead whose telephone number is 571-272-6957. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on 571-272-6956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Brian J. Broadhead
Examiner
Art Unit 3661